

**News Advisory**  
January 19, 2005

Contacts: Mike Brown, 645-6428  
Cynthia Rickman, 645-8795

## **City Unveils Strategy for Downtown Parking Meters Goal is to Support Area Businesses**

**(Columbus)** In an effort to better support Downtown businesses, the City of Columbus today announced the new comprehensive strategy for the duration, pricing, location and enforcement of parking meters in the Downtown area.

**“It’s important that the City’s policies benefit the people who live and work Downtown as well as the businesses that serve them,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “We are focused on creating a system that will maximize available street parking.”**

The Parking Meter Strategy will be phased in over a three-month period, with the first alterations to be made yet this month. Mayor Coleman set the stage for the new parking-meter strategy more than a year ago when he appointed a 14-member committee to study ways that meters could be used to support Downtown businesses. Public Service Director **Henry Guzmán** chaired the committee, and **Bob McLaughlin**, administrator of the City’s Downtown Development Office, served as co-chair.

**“Parking is one of the biggest issues facing downtown, and we hear about it from businesses almost every day. Our goal was two-fold: to better service the short-term needs of Downtown businesses and their customers and to create a more customer-friendly parking environment,” McLaughlin said. “We believe the new strategy succeeds on both counts.”**

The City worked with downtown businesses and organizations in crafting the strategy, and focused on four key areas: duration, location, enforcement and pricing.

**“The City will continue to evaluate this parking-meter plan after each phase is implemented in case adjustments are needed,” said Director Guzman. “Input from our Downtown stakeholders and frequent monitoring will enable us to anticipate future needs and respond accordingly.”**

Under the Duration Strategy:

- Meters west of Fourth Street will be converted to either 30-minute or 2-hour durations. The 12-hour meters currently near the Cultural Arts Center, the Scioto Peninsula and the North Market will be studied for future conversion to 2-hour meters.

- more -

- Meters east of Fourth Street will have durations 30 minutes, 2 hours or 12 hours.
- One-hour, 3-hour and 6-hour meters will be eliminated.
- Short-term meters will be marked for easy identification by motorists and generally be located near the end of each block. Longer-term meters will be located more to the center of the block.

Under the Pricing Strategy:

- Pricing for 30-minute and 12-hour meters will not change.
- Two-hour meters will replace all 1-hour meters. The minute price will remain the same.
- Standardized parking-rate signage will be established for Downtown public parking garages and lots.

Under the Enforcement Strategy:

- General hours of meter enforcement Downtown will be 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Enforcement hours will be extended in the entertainment zone around Nationwide Arena and the North Market.
- Meters will remain free on Sundays.

Under the Location Strategy:

- 12-hour meters will be installed on Fulton Street near Grant Avenue and on the east side of Washington Avenue between Town and Mound streets.
- Two-hour meters will be installed on Main Street between Washington and Grant avenues.

Legislation to standardize parking-rate signage will be forwarded to City Council later this year.

Downtown Administrator Bob McLaughlin will be available today for interviews.